PASTORAL LETTER

For the promulgation of the Plenary Indulgence in the form of a Jubilee, granted to all the Faithful by

OUR HOLY FATHER POPE PIUS IX,

On the occasion of the approaching Œcumenical Council,

BY

HIS APOSTOLIC LETTER

OF THE 11th APRIL 1869.

PASTORAL LETTER

For the promulgation of the Plenary Indulgence in the form of a Jubilee, granted to all the Faithful by Our Holy Father Pope Pius IX, on the occasion of the approaching Œcumenical Council, by His Apostolic Letter of the 11th April 1869.

CHARLES FRANCOIS BAILLARGEON

By the mercy of God and the favor of the Holy Apostolic See, Archbishop of Quebec, Assistant at the Pontifical Throne, &c., &c., &c.

To the Clergy Secular and Regular, to the Religious Communities and to all the Faithful of Our Archdiocese, Greeting and Benediction in Our Lord.

It is our happiness to announce to you, on this day, a great grace, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren. Our Ho'y Father the Pope, by His Apostolic Letter, dated the 11th April last, has just granted, on the occasion of the celebration of the approaching Œcumenical Council, a plenary indulgence, in the form of a Jubilee, to all the Faithful of the world.

But let the Holy Pontiff himself explain this grace. You will prefer to learn it from His lips than from ours. Lend therefore an attentive ear to his affecting words. Behold how he expresses himself in this Letter, worthy of all our respect and of all our gratitude.

TO ALL THE FAITHFUL WHO SHALL SEE THIS LETTER,

POPE PIUS IX,

Health and the Apostolic Benediction.

" No one can be ignorant that we have decreed the opening of an Œcumenical " Council in our Vatican Basilica on the 8th December next, the day consecrated " to the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God. Since " that time we have never ceased humb'y to pray with fervour, and to supplicate

" " the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every best gift, and every " perfect gift ",(1) to send down " the wisdom that sitteth by His throne, to re- " main with us, to work in us, that we may know what is agreeable to Him " (2). " That Almighty God may deign to listen to our prayers, and incline His ear to " our supplications, we have determined to excite all the faithful to greater piety " and devotion in order that by uniting their prayers to ours, we may obtain " the aid of His all-powerful arm, and the heavenly light, that so we may " establish in the Council all that can contribute to the salvation of Christians, " and to the greater glory, happiness, and peace of the Catholic Church. And " as prayers are more agreeable to God when they ascend from a clean heart, " that is from a soul purified from all stain, we wish on this occasion to open " with apostolic liberality the celestial treasury of Indulgences of which the " dispensation is confided to us, so that encouraged thereby to true repentance, " and purified from all sin in the sacrament of penance, the faithful may " approach with greater confidence to the throne of God, and obtain by this " opportune assistance His mercy and His grace."

" With this intention we announce to the whole Catholic world an Indul- " gence in the form of a Jubilee. In the name of God most powerful and most " merciful, supported by the authority of the holy apostles St. Peter and St. " Paul, and in virtue of the power of binding and loosing with which our Lord " has invested us, however unworthy, we grant a Plenary Indulgence, and " remission of all their sins, as it is granted in the year of Jubilee, to all the " faithful of both sexes, either dwelling in our much loved city of Rome, or " having come within her wall, who shall between the first of June, and the day " of the close of the Œcumenical Council convoked by us, visit the basilicas of " St. John Lateran, the Prince of the Apostles, and S. Maria Majore, or at least " visit one of them twice, and devoutly pray there for some time for the conver- " sion of sinners, for the propagation of the faith, and for the peace, tranquillity, " and triumph of the Catholic Church ; who, in addition to the accustomed fast " of the Ember days, shall fast for three days, even not consecutively, that is to " say, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, and who, in the course of the time, " shall have confessed their sins, reverently received the Holy Sacrament of the " Eucharist, and given some alms to the poor according to their power. To all " not living in Rome, we grant the same Plenary Indulgence, and remission of

(1) S. James, 1. 17.
(2) Wisdom, 9, 4 and 10.

" their sins, on condition of their visiting, within the given time, the churches " which shall be pointed out by the ordinary of the place, or the vicars to whom " the charge of souls is committed, and fulfilling the conditions already spoken " of. This Indulgence is applicable to the souls in purgatory."

" Travellers by land and sea may gain it by fulfilling the conditions and " visiting twice the cathedral or parish church of the place where they are. " As to the regulars of either sex who live in monasteries, and all persons, " whether lay or clerical, secular or regular, who, detained in prison, or for any " cause deprived of their liberty, or prevented by sickness or other obstacles, " shall find it impossible to comply with the conditions, we grant to any " confessor approved by the Bishop, the power of commuting the works of piety " for some others, or of postponing them to a future time not distant, or of " prescribing such things as these penitents may be able to perform. Confessors " may also dispense from Communion those children who have not yet made " their first communion."

" Also, to all the faithful, secular and regular, of whatsoever order or insti- " tute they may be, we grant the power of choosing a confessor either secular " or regular, provided they choose one approved by the bishop. The permission " is extendend to all nuns, novices and other women living in monasteries, " provided the confessor is approved for nuns, and these confessors shall have " the power, for this time only, to absolve and release, *in foro conscientiæ*, from " excommunication and other ecclesiastical censures *a jure* or *ab homine*."

" In virtue of holy obedience we exhort and command most rigorously the " ordinaries of each separate place, or, in the absence of their vicars, whoever " has the charge of souls in their place, that as soon as they shall judge it to be " convenient after seeing this letter, they shall publish or cause to be published, " in their churches and dioceses, provinces, towns, and villages, the name of the " church or churches which are to be visited in order to gain the Indulgence."

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" We also ordain that from the 1st June next, to the close of the Œcume- " nical Council, all the priests of the Catholic world, secular or regular, shall add " every day in their Mass the prayer to the Holy Ghost, and that besides the " accustomed Mass, the Mass of the Holy Ghost shall be said every Thursday, " except on a double of the first or second class, in all the parish churches, " basilicas, or collegiate churches in Rome, and in all cathedrals and college " chapels throughout the world, by their respective canons, also in every church

" served by regulars, and bound to say a conventual Mass. The Mass of the " Holy Ghost binds under no obligation regarding the application of it."

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" Given at St. Peter's in Rome, under the Ring of the Fisherman, the " 11th April, 1869, the 23rd year of our Pontificate."

(Signed), N. Card. Paracciani Clarelli.

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Such is, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, the admirable Letter which the successor of Peter, the common Father of the Faithful, has just addressed to all the children of the Church, and which he commands us to communicate to you ; which we do by this our present pastoral letter. Thus it is that he reveals to us his thoughts the wishes of his heart, his hopes, his apostolic projects, and invites us to second them.

The holy preoccupation of his great soul, the object of all his wishes, is the deliverance and the triumph of the Church. For this it is he has convoked a general assembly of all the bishops of the world ; for this it is he does not cease, in the humility of his heart, to implore, night and day, the assistance of the Most-High and the light of His Holy Spirit, for himself and for all his brethren in the apostolic ministry, in order that he may decide and establish, in union with them, in this Council, all that may contribute to the common good of the christian people, and to that triumph of the Church, which shall insure the salvation of the whole world.

This assistance and these lights of the Most-High he expects with entire confidence. He knows that God can refuse nothing to His Church in prayer ; and he calls on the universal church to pray. Accordingly, he invites and presses all the faithful, children of that Church, to join their supplications to his, and to those of all their pastors assembled together with him, in order thus to form, as it were, a powerful concert of prayers, capable of ascending to the throne of God, and of drawing down the eyes of His Mercy on the pastors and the faithful.

But that our prayers may be agreeable to God and worthy of being granted, they must, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, ascend from a clean heart. "God doth not hear sinners" (1). The Holy Father therefore exhorts all christians to purify their soul by true repentance, having recourse to the sacrament of reconciliation

(1) St. John, 9, 31.

in order that, being thus justified before God, they may present themselves before Him with confidence, and, in union with all the just of the earth, solicit and obtain at last from His Divine Goodness opportune grace and assistance.

And this assistance thus implored by all the children of God united with the Vicar of Jesus-Christ, as being their head, how could it be refused them ?...." Think you, says the Lord Himself to His disciples, think you that " God will not revenge His elect who cry to Him day and night ?...." Think " you that He will long delay to hear them ?—No, I say to you that he will " quickly revenge them." (2)

Therefore, that all the faithful of the world may more efficaciously be induced to make worthy fruits of penance, and to approach, with more zeal and confidence, the holy tribunal of reconciliation, the Holy Pontiff, relying on the Mercy of God and on the authority of St. Peter, opens, with apostolic liberality, the celestial treasury of graces, confided to his dispensation, and grants them a plenary indulgence, as it is customary to grant in the holy year of Jubilee, that is, an indulgence full, entire and without reserve ; and he intends this indulgence to extend not only to the living, who may all gain it, but also to the souls departed in the love of God, to whom he permits it to be applied by way of suffrage.

Such is the indulgence which the Vicar of Jesus-Christ, in his immense solicitude for the salvation of souls and the triumph of the Church, has just granted to the catholic world, and which we have had reason to announce to you, in the beginning of this pastoral letter, as a great grace.

Let us now see the conditions which must be fulfilled to gain it. These conditions are clearly mentioned, it is true, in the Holy Father's apostolic letter which you have just heard read : but, for the advantage of many who might not have understood them well, or who might have some difficulty to remember them, we shall repeat and recapitulate them. They are as follows :

1° To visit once the churches which shall be pointed out by the Ordinary of the place, or by his Vicars General, or to visit one of them twice, and devoutly pray there, for some time, for the conversion of sinners, for the propagation of the Faith, and for the peace, tranquillity, and triumph of the Catholic Church ; and that, within the time prescribed, which extends from the first of June next to the close of the Œcumenical Council ;

2° In the course of the time and in addition to the accustomed fast of the

(2) St. Luc, 18, 7 et 8

Ember days, to fast for three days, even not consecutively, that is to say: Wednesday, Friday and Saturday;

3° Within the prescribed time, to confess and to receive reverently the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist;

4° Lastly, to give some alms to the poor, according to every one's discretion.

You will perceive, Our Dear Beloved Brethren, that all these conditions are the same that are usually prescribed to gain the indulgence of ordinary Jubilees. They all consist in the practice of works of piety, mortification and charity, works so agreeable to God, and which persons of good will can so easily perform.

Some persons there are, however, who may not be able to comply with these conditions, or who may not be able to do so, but with great difficulty. Such are travellers, some of the poor, the infirm, the sick, prisoners, and all persons who, for any reason, may be prevented from visiting the churches or receiving Holy Communion.... Let us admire here with what attention and pious solicitude the Holy Father watches over their spiritual welfare, and takes care that none, because of the impossibility to comply with the prescribed works, be deprived of the happiness of gaining the indulgence offered to all. With paternal goodness, he exempts them from those conditions, as you have remarked in his apostolic letter, or he confers on confessors extraordinary powers to commute them, according to the circumstances and wants of every one;—so much has he at heart that they may profit by these days of mercy and of salvation to return to God and to be restored to His grace by a sincere repentance, and that all the children of the church may, by this means, participate in the great indulgence he grants them in the Lord.

Hasten therefore, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, like docile children, to respond to the wish of the Supreme Head of the Church, of the common Father of all the faithful. Profit by the abundant graces of salvation he offers to you in the precious indulgence of the Jubilee which he grants you: and to this end, make worthy fruits of penance; labor to break off your evil habits; watch over yourselves; avoid sin and all the occasions of sin; endeavor, in all things, to fulfil the holy will of God; do every thing for His love, to please Him, to procure His glory; accomplish with zeal, piety, and fidelity, all the works prescribed to gain this indulgence: the visit of the churches, the prayers, the fasts and the alms; purify your souls by a good confession; unite yourselves to Jesus Christ by a holy communion; and pray, pray fervently, as the Holy Pontiff invites, conjures you to do. Religion and obedience, piety and charity combine to make it a duty.

Yes, Our Dearly Beloved Brethren, let us pray with all our heart and all our soul; there is question of a great benefit, of the peace and the triumph of the Church, our mother; let us pray for the success of the Œcumenical Council, which will soon assemble; let us pray for the Holy Father and for all the bishops of the world who are about to labor with him, under the inspiration of the Spirit of God, in this holy assembly, to procure us this blessing; let us pray for them; let us pray with them, with all our brethren in Jesus-Christ, spread over the whole world, with the Church of God, and we shall be heard.

Wherefore, having invoked the holy name of God, with the advice of our council, we have decreed and ordained, do decree and ordain as follows:

1° The time within which to gain the plenary indulgence of the Jubilee granted by the apostolic letter, which we publish by our present pastoral letter, shall be precisely that which has been appointed. It will commence, in this diocese, on the first day of June next, and terminate on the closing day of the Council;

2° During this interval, the parish priests and missionaries shall choose three days, during which to give to the faithful committed to their care the solemn exercices of a *Triduum*;

3° The opening of this *Triduum* shall be announced in each parish, or mission, on the eve of the day on which it shall commence, by the ringing of the bells, which shall last a quarter of an hour, after the evening *Angelus*: and the close of the same shall be announced, in the same manner, also after the evening *Angelus*;

4° On the first day of the exercises, the *Veni Creator* shall be sung, before the high mass, or principal mass, to implore the light and the grace of the Holy Spirit. On the last day, the exercises shall terminate by the solemn chant of the *Te Deum*, in thanksgiving;

5° As much as possible, there shall be, on each day, in the morning, high mass and sermon, and in the afternoon, vespers, sermon and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament;

6° Cloistered, and not cloistered, nuns may perform the exercises of this *Triduum*, of which they shall fix the day themselves, in concert with their Chaplain, by attending, in the morning, the mass of the community, at which the Blessed Sacrament shall be exposed, and, in the evening, the solemn benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and by particularly praying thereat, according to the intentions of the Sovereign Pontiff;

7° During the whole time above appointed, from the first day of June next

to the closing day of the Council, all priests, regular and secular, shall add, at the holy mass, the prayer of the Holy Ghost, without ceasing to say the already prescribed prayer for the Pope, which shall be the last ;

8° During the whole of the same time, on sundays and feasts of obligation, shall be repeated, in english, at the end of the high mass or principal mass, after the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, the Lord's Prayer, and the angelical salutation, according to the intentions of the Holy Father. The same prayers shall be said on the three days of the exercices of the *Triduum*, at the end of the morning and evening exercises ;

9° Although the works prescribed in order to gain the indulgence of the Jubilee may be accomplished during the whole time above appointed, we nevertheless exhort the faithful to comply with them before the opening day of the Council, the 8th December next ;—as their prayers and good works should, according to the injunctions of the Sovereign Pontiff, be offered to God chiefly to draw down the light and grace of the Holy Spirit on that holy assembly. We desire it may be the same with regard to the exercises of the *Triduum*, which shall be performed for the same end ;

10° We appoint *as stations of the Jubilee*, or as the churches which must be visited in order to gain the indulgence, for the faithful who reside in the City of Quebec, the Cathedral, St. Patrick's, St. Roch's, St. Sauveur's and St. John's, Church ; for the persons who live without the City, the Church or Chapel of their parish ; and finally for the nuns of what order soever they may be, and for the persons residing in their house, the chapel of their community ;

11° Travellers who shall not have been able to perform the prescribed works, in the time appointed, may, as it is said in the apostolic letter, gain the indulgence of the Jubilee, immediately after their return, by visiting twice the Cathedral, if they belong to Quebec, or the Church of the parish where they reside, provided that they accomplish the other prescribed works ;

12° With regard to the sick, infirm, prisoners and other persons who shall not be able to fulfil the works prescribed to gain the same indulgence, by virtue of the apostolic letter, their confessors are autorised to enjoin them other works of piety which they may be able to perform, and even to exempt from Holy Communion the children who have not yet made their first communion ;

13° Finally, as it has been already said, all approved confessors may, during the time appointed to gain the indulgence of the Jubilee, absolve the cases reserved to the Sovereign Pontiff and to the Archbishop, and commute vows into other good works (except the vow to enter into the religious state and

the vow of perpetual chastity), as it is more amply explained in the apostolic letter, of which we send a copy to all the priests of the Archdiocese, with this our present pastoral letter ;

14° Nuns may also, during the same time, choose confessors among the priests approved to hear their confessions.

Shall this our present pastoral letter be read and published (except the 14th article, which shall be read and published in religious communities only) at the prone of all parochial churches or chapels, and others where public service is performed, and, in chapter, in all religious communities, on the first day after its reception.

Given at the Archbishop's Palace, Quebec, under our signature, the seal of our arms and the countersign of our secretary, on the seventeenth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

✠ C. F. ARCHBISHOP OF QUEBEC.

By order of His Grace,

C. Baillargeon, Pst.,

Secretary.